

Juan lived in a small village on the side of a mountain. Many grand mountains surrounded his home. Juan usually spent his day climbing the mountains with his pet donkey, Shara. Shara ran off quite often. Juan tied a large string of bells around her neck so that he could find her by listening for the jingles.

One morning, Juan heard the noise of many horses in the distance. As he looked, several men rode into the square with large packs of tools and maps on the backs of their horses. "We are looking for a large city that we believe may be located near your village," a tall man said, looking down at Juan. "There is no such city," Juan replied.

The men said they were scientists who had searched for the hidden city for years and could not find it. The leader said that it must be hidden in a near valley and that they would rest before going on. The city was to have been filled with treasures, and the leader offered money to those who could help them find it.

Juan was thrilled with the thought of finding a secret city and ran home to Father to ask his permission.

On the way home, Shara ran off so fast that Juan could not catch her. Juan searched for her with no luck. While looking, he used his ears as well, but he didn't hear her familiar jingle.

He climbed the huge mountain to look for his favorite pet. He walked for hours and combed the many ridges with his eyes, but still no Shara.

Then Juan saw a small animal moving along the mountain, but it was so far away that he could not tell whether it was Shara. Juan moved over the terrain carefully as he climbed, not daring to look down. With hunger gripping his stomach and sleepy eyes, Juan

thought he should end his search. Then he heard a faint jingle. He moved toward the sound and found Shara wedged between two large boulders.

As Juan pulled her out, it began to rain, so they hid under a space in the rock and waited. When the sun appeared, Juan saw a strange glow. It was from the valley below. The golden roofs of the secret city were before him.

Juan raced home to tell Father. He had bright thoughts of the money he would earn from the men at home.

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